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lapsed and left the town stranded with a heavy debt. When this epidemic came it found the town without a dollar in the treasury. The place is practically owned by two or three companies, and everybody works on a salary. These companies paid up their taxes in advance, and all having been expended, there were no other funds for the city to draw on.

The county, which is also heavily in debt, has been haggling with the city in regard to an appropriation, but none has been made. The city script is worthless, and the grocer who has been furnishing the supplies refuses longer to accept it. The physicians and guards are practically getting no pay. Under these circumstances the State board of health threatened to withdraw all guards and physicians, and quarantine the entire county, unless the county provided funds to care for the epidemic. In the presence of this threat the mayor requested that an officer of the Service be sent to investigate, trusting that the Government would come to their aid financially, if not otherwise. I am informed by Dr. McCormack, chief sanitary inspector, who is a son of the secretary of the State board, and who is acting for him here, that the disease is under control and that the State board is entirely able to care for it, it being the determination of the board to force the county to provide funds. To-day the patients are without food. A committee of citizens met and discussed the matter, and have wired the situation to the governor and the State board, asking them to request the assistance of the Government. Chief Inspector McCormack informs me that the board will not make such a request, claiming that it is able to handle the situation itself. Under these circumstances I do not see that the Service can do anything further in the matter. There are a few cases of variola at Jellico, Ky., but Dr. McCormack informs me that they are under control and thoroughly isolated. Numerous little towns and villages within a radius of 20 miles have instituted "shotgun" quarantines, and will allow no one to enter or leave them, though they have no smallpox in them. Among these places may be mentioned Pineville, Ky., Cumberland Gap, Morristown, Greeneville, Limestone, Jonesboro, and Tazewell, all in Tennessee. Some of these places will not allow any one to get off the train. While en route to this place I had to delay several hours in Knoxville, and called on the city physician and met several of the prominent business men. I am informed that in Knoxville there have been 16 cases of variola since December 14, 1897, and 30 suspects; that there are now 5 cases in the pest boat, which is anchored out on the river above the city. I am informed that the disease is under control in Knoxville and no further danger is feared except from reinfection.

Respectfully, yours,

C. P. WERTENBAKER,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., on Special Duty.

Smallpox in Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE, ALA., March 19, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that 8 cases of smallpox have been admitted to the pesthouse since my last report, making the total number of admissions 30, with 1 death. Twenty-three cases now under treatment.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. MURRAY,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.